

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments above, comments which follow, and IDS that is submitted herewith.

The applicant appreciates that the Examiner has only recently assumed the responsibility for this application, but the applicant believes that the Examiner's comments in Section 11 of the Advisory Action of January 25, 2011, with respect, are clearly in error. Reconsideration is therefore requested.

The Examiner considers that the lower mesh cloth 214 of Figure 19 of Adams constitutes a support structure as claimed. The Examiner points out that mesh 216 rests on cloth 214, and is possibly bonded thereto, and that cloth 214 is therefore necessarily a support for the cloth 216.

The applicant does not agree with this interpretation. Applicant's claims require more than a simple support function and include certain structural limitations. Applicant's claims are directed to an integral screen, which is discussed in present specification as comprising a support frame to which the mesh is bonded, with the mesh tensioned across the frame. Cloth 214 of Adams does not include a support frame – it is not reasonable to equate the peripheral wires of cloth 214 with a frame. Cloth 214 of Adams does not include a lattice of struts – it is not reasonable to equate the wires of the cloth with struts, which are structural components strengthening a framework by resisting longitudinal compression. Cloth 216 of Adams does not extend in tensioned state across cloth 214.

Therefore, it is submitted that the Examiner's interpretation of Adams is in error. However, in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application, independent claims 1, 18 and 24 have been amended above to include the requirement that the support structure comprise "a rigid rectangular support frame". The present application refers to an earlier application, GB 2382037, a copy is included in the IDS submitted herewith. This earlier filing is directed to screens comprising a rigid rectangular support frame having flanges along each edge with an array of orthogonal rigid members defining a plurality of similarly-sized rectangular openings, such as shown in Figure 3 and described in the Abstract.

It is submitted that the peripheral wires of the lower cloth 214 of Adams cannot be considered a rigid rectangular support frame in any reasonable interpretation.

The arrangement of Figure 19 of Adams includes a separate support structure 213 (see paragraph 0057) so that it is not reasonable to attribute the claimed support function to another component, namely cloth 214. Furthermore, there is no disclosure in Adams of the superposed cloth 216 being bonded to the lattice struts and boundary of the first opening (of the support structure) as is required by applicant's claims. In addition, although the cloths of Adams Figure 19 define rectangular openings, there is no disclosure of the cloth having a greater number of warp wires than weft wires per unit length as is required by claim 1.

An important feature of the present invention is the orientation of the cloth in relation to the support structure, with the particular orientation bringing benefits, particularly for rectangular mesh cloths, in terms of greater screen life (e.g. as discussed on page 6 paragraph 3 of the specification) and efficiency of production (e.g. as discussed on page 12 of the specification). Adams includes no teachings whatsoever concerning the orientation of the cloth to the actual support structure, namely support 213.

It is therefore submitted that the claims, as amended, distinguish from Adams and are allowable thereover. However, should any matters remain for consideration, as the applicant has previously sought, an interview is requested. Before further acting on the application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned so that the interview can be arranged.

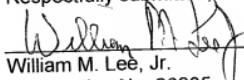
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The corresponding Canadian application has recently been examined and the Canadian Examiner has cited a new reference, US 6,305,549. The applicant does not consider this new reference to be of particular relevance to the present invention, as it includes no disclosure concerning the orientation of the cloth in relation to the support. However, to unquestionably fulfill the duty of disclosure, the reference is brought to the Examiner's attention.

Further and favorable reconsideration is urged. A needed Petition for Extension of Time is also submitted herewith.

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Respectfully submitted,


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